NEWS RELEASE

United States Department of Agriculture
NATIONAL AGRICULTURAL STATISTICS SERVICE
KENTUCKY FIELD OFFICE
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USDA to Measure Farmland Rental Rates

Louisville, Kentucky – Beginning in February, the U.S. Department of Agriculture's National Agricultural Statistics Service will contact Kentucky farmers to gather land rental rate information for the *Cash Rents and Leases* survey. The results of this survey will serve as a valuable decision-making tool for farmers and other landowners and will help shape negotiations for 2017 rental agreements.

"This brief survey is our only source of county cash rental rates," said NASS' Kentucky Field Office Director David Knopf. "By responding, producers help the farming community and ensure USDA bases its decisions on the most accurate data." NASS will publish average cash rental rates at national, state and county levels for cropland and pastureland on September 9, 2016.

More than 8,000 of Kentucky farmers will receive the survey forms. NASS offers the option of responding online via a secure Internet connection. In April, NASS representatives will begin calling and visiting landowners who have not yet responded.

"We guarantee confidentiality of all individual information, regardless of the respond method participants choose, as required by federal law," Knopf said. "NASS will combine your responses with your fellow producers nationwide, providing the only accurate and comprehensive estimate of U.S. average rent and lease rates."

For more information about the *Cash Rents and Leases* survey, call the NASS Kentucky Field Office at 1-800-928-5277. All NASS reports and data are available online at www.nass.usda.gov.

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